



Department of Justice

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INDIANAPOLIS TAX PREPARER SENTENCED FOR MAKING AND FILING FALSE TAX RETURNS

PRESS RELEASE

INDIANAPOLIS - Joseph H. Hogsett, United States Attorney, announced today that Francois X. Attadedji, 34, Indianapolis, Indiana, was sentenced to 12 months in custody by U.S. District Court Judge Tonya Walton Pratt following his guilty plea to making and filing false tax returns. This case was the result of an investigation by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. The Court authorized the Bureau of Prisons to place Attadedji in prison for the first six months of the sentence, to be followed by six months of community confinement or home detention.

“This office takes very seriously any allegation of fraud and waste involving Hoosier tax dollars,” Hogsett said. “As this sentence makes clear, we will continue to use all of our prosecutorial resources and the full force of federal law to protect taxpayer resources and public programs.”

Francois X. Attadedji was a tax return preparer operating in the Indianapolis area. During the tax filing seasons of 2007 through 2009, Attadedji operated his tax preparation business, Attadedji & Associates, as a sole-proprietorship, and prepared in excess of 350 tax returns. In analyzing statistical data of the tax returns prepared by Attadedji, the IRS’s Scheme Development Center noticed statistical trends that were unusual.

As a result of the analysis, an undercover operation was put in place whereby Attadedji prepared a federal tax return which should have resulted in the undercover agent owing \$218. The federal tax return prepared by Attadedji fraudulently contained a refundable education credit resulting in the undercover agent’s tax return claiming a refund of \$782. Further investigation revealed that Attadedji knowingly and willfully assisted many other clients of his tax preparation business in the fraudulent preparation, signing, and filing of tax returns.

Attadedji also prepared, signed, and filed his own federal tax returns, which intentionally contained material misstatements. Attadedji paid other individuals for identifying information regarding dependents he did not have so he could claim them on his own personal federal tax returns. The aggregate tax loss resulting from Attadedji preparing and filing false tax returns for himself and others is \$60,884.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney James Warden, who prosecuted the case for the government, Judge Walton Pratt ordered full restitution of \$60,884 to the United States Treasury, and imposed one year supervised release following Attadedji's release from prison.

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